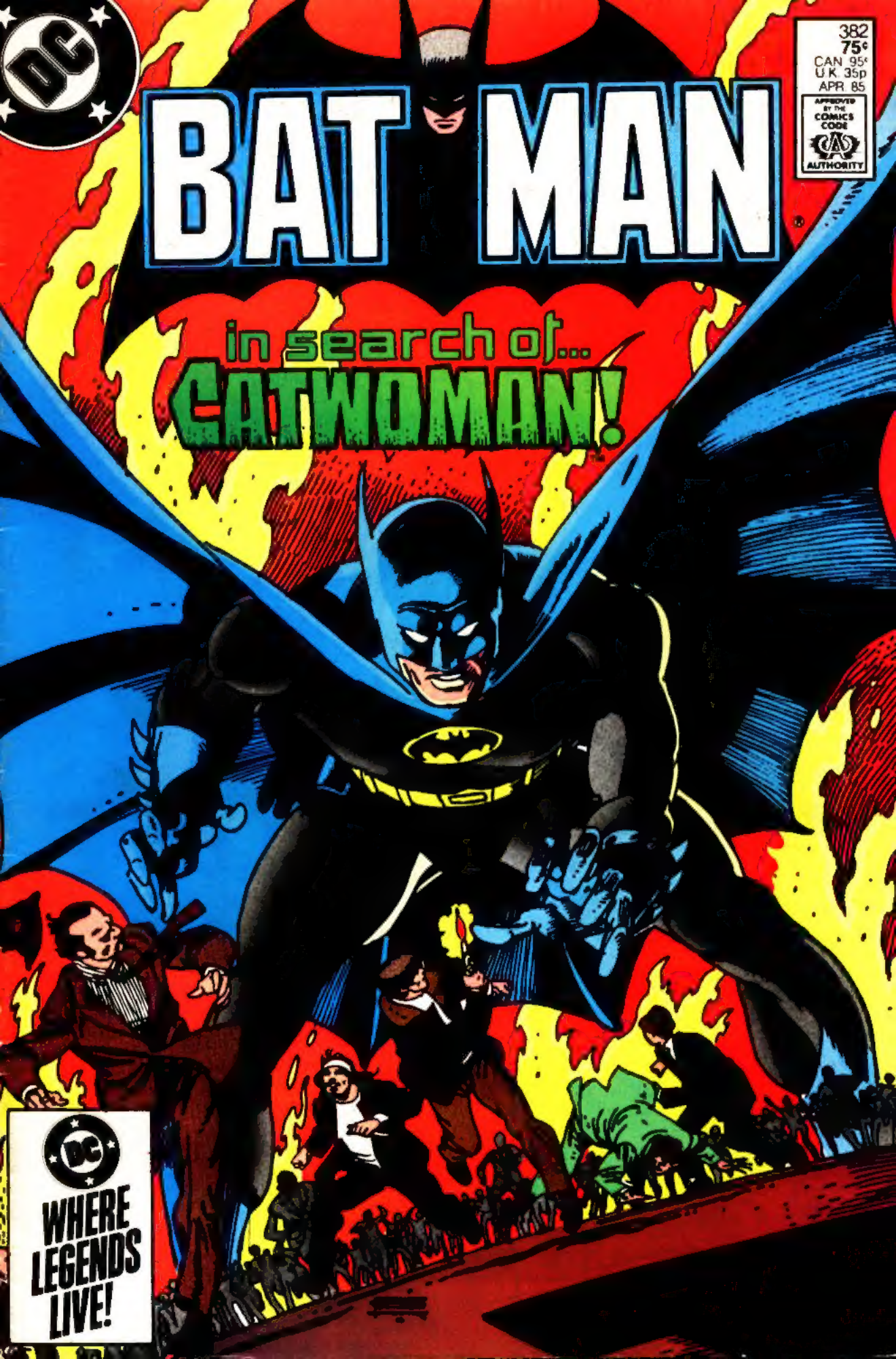
DC
BAT MAN
382
75¢
CAN 95¢
U.K. 35p
APR 85
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
in search of...
CATWOMAN!
DC
WHERE LEGENDS LIVE!

PROLOGUE: THE NIGHT BEGAN WITH A BLACK PANTHER ON THE PROWL...
...SAVAGING MUGGER AND VICTIM ALIKE IN THE URBAN JUNGLE KNOWN AS CRIME ALLEY.
EN ROUTE TO THE SCENE, BATMAN AND ROBIN WERE DETOURED BY THE PORTABLE BAT-SIGNAL--
--AND FOUND THEMSELVES AT ARCH AND WELLMAN, SITE OF GOTHAM'S EGYPTIAN EMBASSY, WHERE POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON EXPLAINED:
THERE'S A SYRIAN TERRORIST HOLDING SIX HOSTAGES UP THERE.
CALLS HIMSELF DARKWOLF --AND HE DEMANDS THE RELEASE OF SYRIAN PRISONERS FROM EGYPTIAN PRISONS.
EGYPT FLATLY REFUSES -- DUMPING IT IN OUR LAP.
THE COMBINED RESCUE AND CAPTURE MISSION WAS LAUNCHED WITH COOL COURAGE AND BOLD HOPE.
BUT WHILE ROBIN SUCCEEDED IN RESCUING THE HOSTAGES--
--THE BATMAN FAILED TO CAPTURE DARKWOLF.
OAOUM
GOOD LORD!

BATMAN 382 (USPS 045-340). Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1306-F, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside U.S.A. $11.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright © 1984 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
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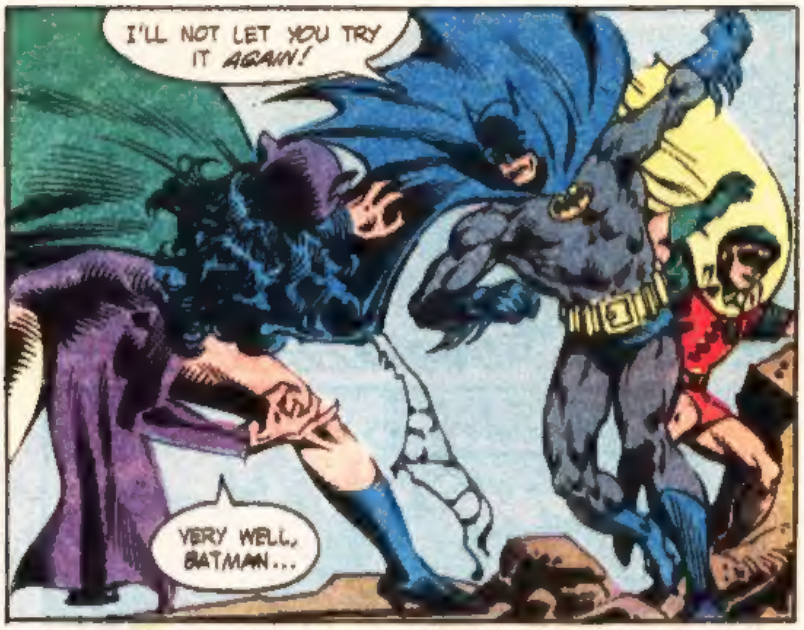
GROGGY, AND IN BITTER FRUSTRATION, THE MASKED MANHUNTER COULD ONLY WATCH--
--AS HIS BEAST-LIKE QUARRY MADE A SPECTACULAR ESCAPE.
AT THE SAME MOMENT, REPORTER JULIA REMARQUE AND PHOTOGRAPHER VICKY VALE TRACKED BACK TERROR THROUGH ONE OF CRIME ALLEY'S CRUMBLING TENEMENTS...
THINK PULITZER, JULIA...
COME ON, ROBIN -- NOW WE'VE GOT TWO BEASTS TO HUNT...
THE PANTHER IN CRIME ALLEY -- AND WEREWOLF, GOD KNOWS WHERE.
THEN THE PRIZE WAS FOUND...
DO THEY AWARD IT POSTHUMOUSLY?
UHRRR
...AND NOW, AS THEY HOPE TO SURVIVE THEIR SUCCESS--
SH-TRAK
WHAT THE --? A CAT-O-NINE-TAILS!
DON'T YOU DARE HARM THAT CAT!
2

BAT MAN
THE VENGEANCE SPIRAL
IT... IT'S... CATWOMAN!
AND I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN IT WOULD BE YOU, VICKI VALE.
AFTER OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, YOU KNOW WHAT I CAN DO -- SO I ADVISE YOU TO LISTEN TO MY NEXT WORDS VERY CAREFULLY...
AND THE WORDS HANG IN THE AIR LIKE A HISS.
DOUG MOENCH
WRITER
RICK HOBERG & RUDY NEBRES
ARTISTS
BEN ODA
LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY
COLORIST
LEN WEIN
EDITOR
3

LOOK OUT, VICKI! SHE'S ATTACKING!
NO -- HER LEAP IS TOO HIGH, JULIA! IT'LL CARRY HER BEYOND US --
-- STRAIGHT TO THE PANTHER!
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT EITHER OF YOU!
MY ONLY CONCERN IS THE CARE OF MY PET.
I'VE BEEN HUNTING HIM FAR LONGER THAN YOU HAVE.
PRRK
...AND NOW THAT WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN, MY PRESENCE WILL CALM HIM.
GO BACK TO THE SAFETY OF YOUR OFFICE AND MANUFACTURE SOME OTHER NEWS -- DIABLO WILL ATTACK NO ONE ELSE NOW...
...AT LEAST NOT UNTIL WE COMPLETE OUR LARGER HUNT TOGETHER.
WAIT -- YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE -- NOT WITHOUT TELLING US WHAT'S GOING ON!
WHY DID YOUR PANTHER GO BERSERK AND --
UNHAND ME, WOMAN!
I SAID I DON'T WANT THE SPOTLIGHT OF YOUR PUBLIC! --
THUD
WAK!
4
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

IN YOUR PREDATORY MADNESS, CATWOMAN, YOU ALMOST KILLED VICKI YALE ONCE BEFORE...*
BATMAN!
AND ROBIN.
*SEE BATMAN #365. -- LEN.


I'LL NOT LET YOU TRY IT AGAIN!
VERY WELL, BATMAN...

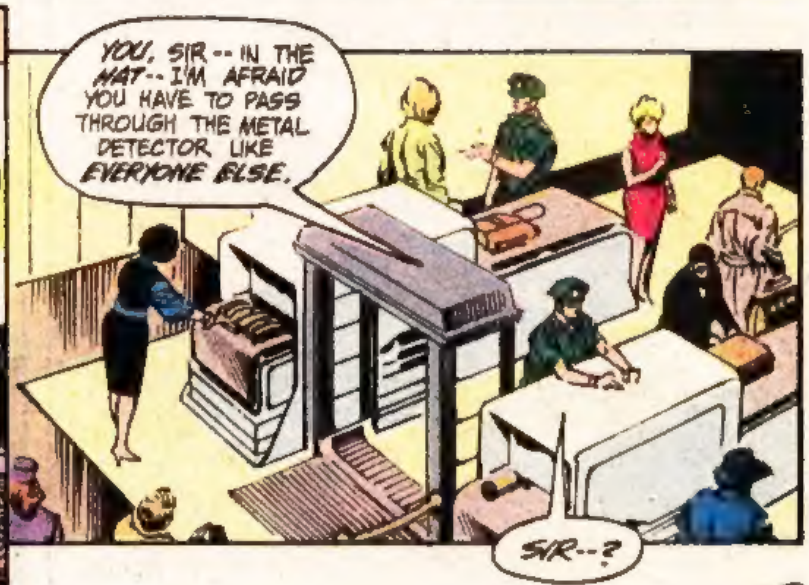
IF YOU'RE SO EAGER TO EXPECT THE WORST FROM ME --
--TAKE IT!
OMPF

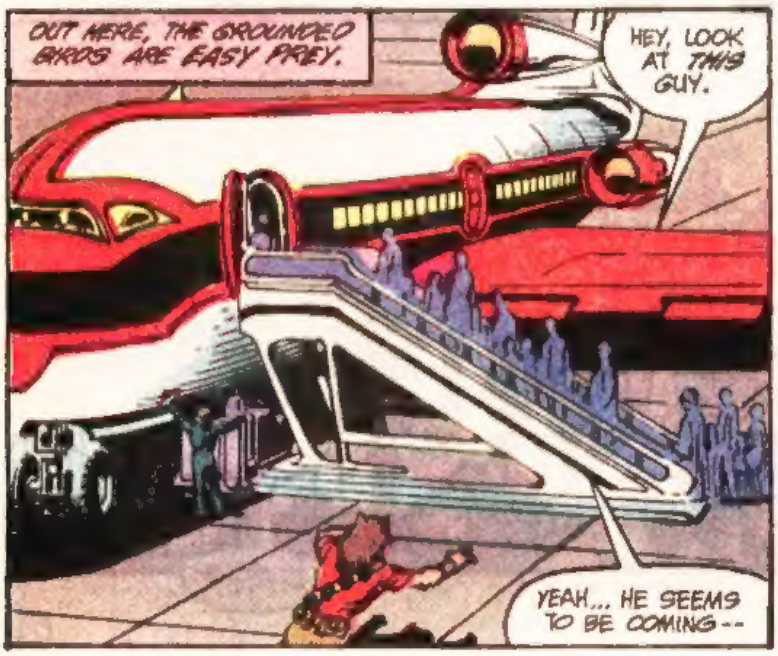
STOP IT, BATMAN! SHE HASN'T TRYING TO HURT US!
SHE WAS ONLY PROTECTING HER PANTHER -- IT'S BEEN INJURED IN SOME WAY!

YEAH, THE CAT DOESN'T SEEM VERY FEISTY -- DULLER AND SLOWER THAN THE ONES IN THE CIRCUS...
DIABLO'S BEEN POISONED -- PERHAPS FATALLY -- BY A BEAST WHO CALLS HIMSELF DARKWOLF.
5

DARKWOLF--? ROBIN AND I JUST TANGLED WITH HIM AT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY.
I THINK YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN, CATWOMAN.
SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY INVOLVED -- AND SINCE EVADING YOU WOULD ONLY WASTE MORE TIME...
...LISTEN WELL.
TAKE THIS DOWN IN YOUR NOTEBOOK, JULIA-- EVERY WORD OF IT.
"IT GOES BACK TO THE TIME I SPENT LIVING IN EGYPT--
"-- A TIME WHICH COINCIDES WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT'S PEACE OVERTURES TO ISRAEL...
DC
"A FRIEND I'D MADE -- AN OFFICIAL WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES -- WAS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE REPRISALS FROM LESS TOLERANT ARAB FACTIONS...
"SYRIAN TERRORISTS HAD ALREADY STAGED SEVERAL STRIKES ON EGYPT--
"-- MASTERMINDED AND TO BE EXECUTED BY A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE KNOWN ONLY AS DARKWOLF.
"I DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...
"AND LARGELY BECAUSE DIABLO MAULED MY FACE --
"-- AND INTELLIGENCE HAD LEARNED OF A POSSIBLE ATTACK ON THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES ITSELF--
"... AS CATWOMAN.
6

"BUT TO A MAN LIKE HIM, ESCAPE IS ALMOST AN INSTINCT--





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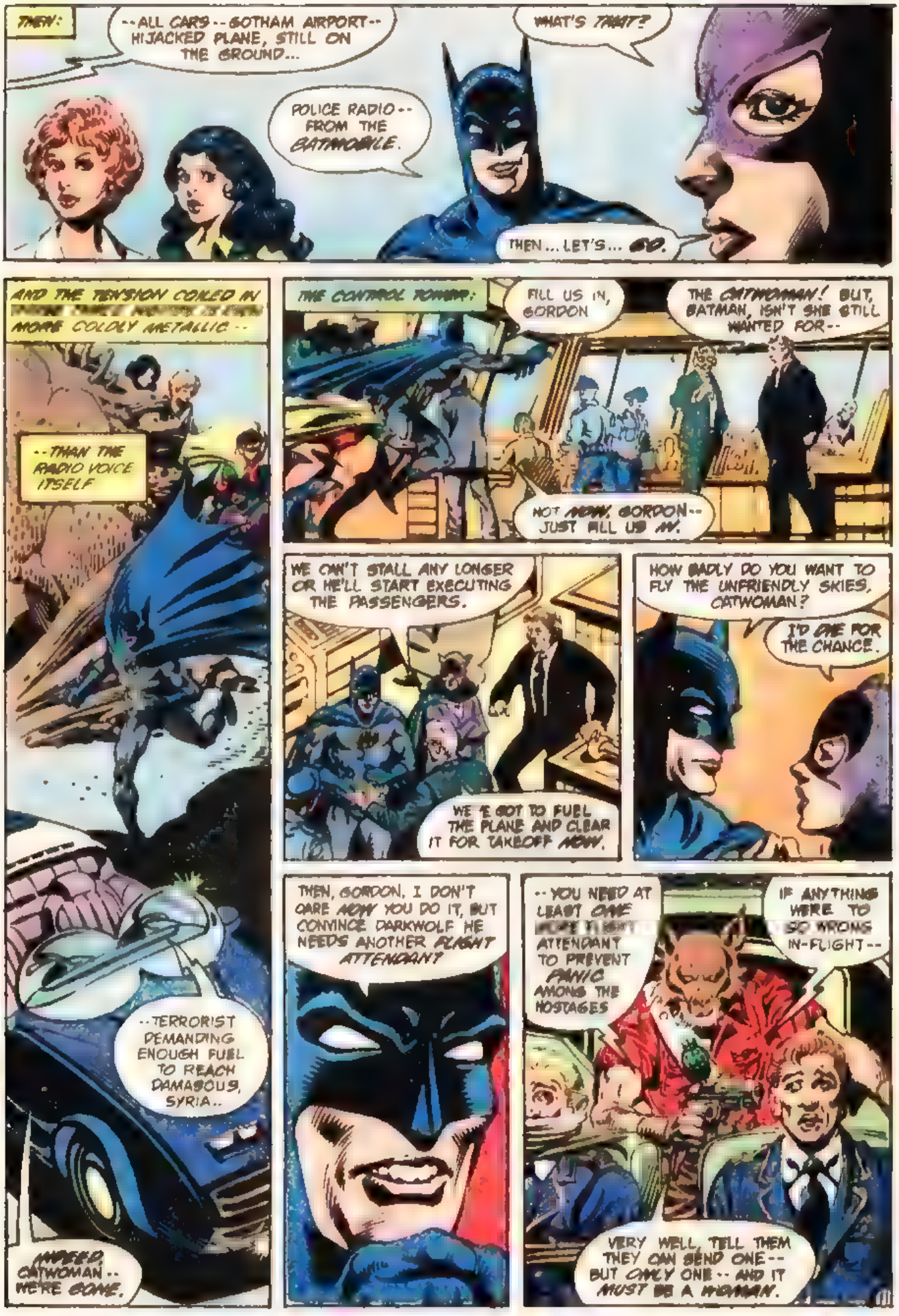
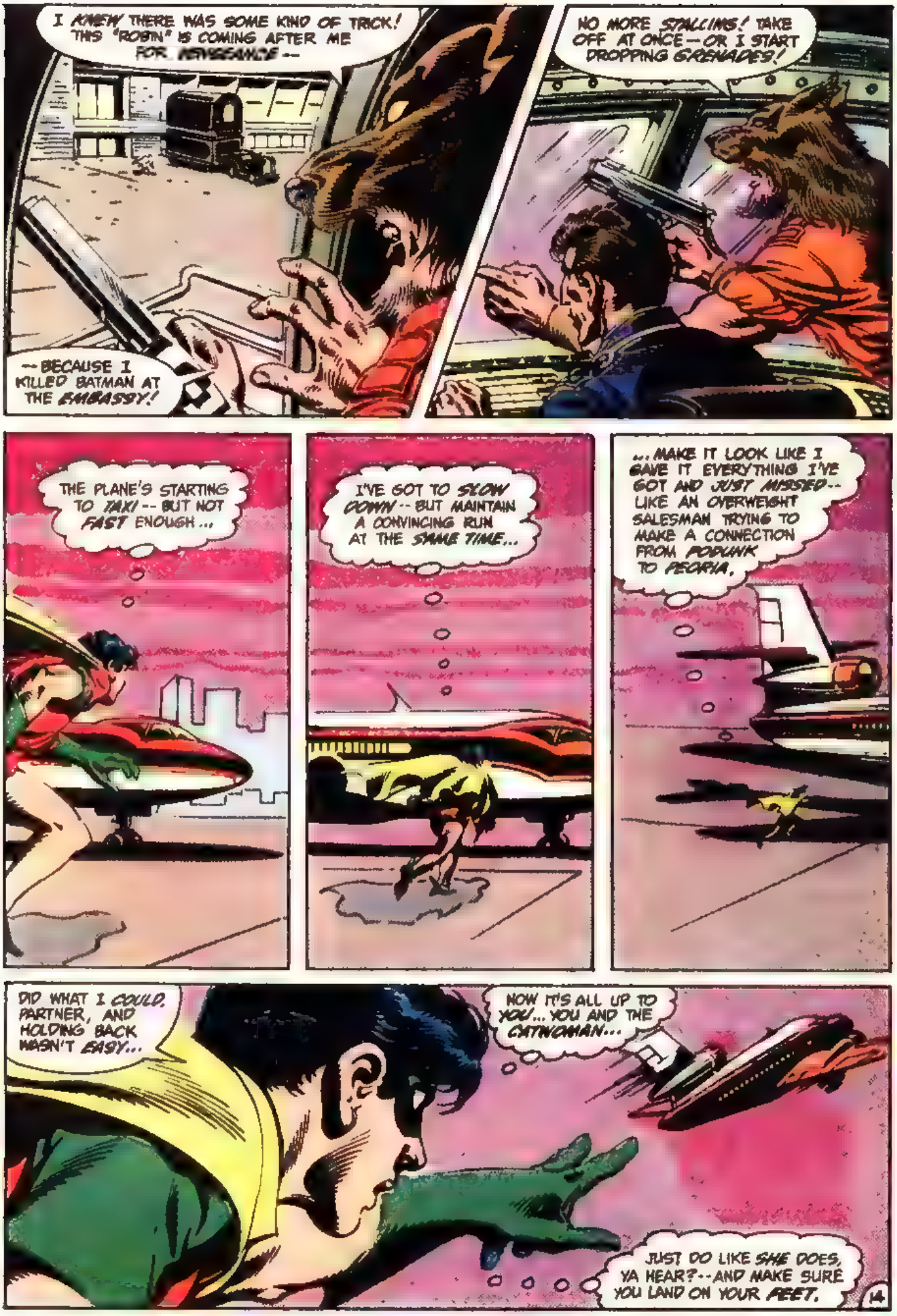
ROUGH NIGHT, JIM?
YOU SAID IT.
HOPE THIS FLIGHT IS AN EASY--
ONE WRONG MOVE WILL CAUSE THIS AIRCRAFT TO FLY IN PIECES.
NOW--TELL THE GROUND CREW WE REQUIRE SUFFICIENT FUEL TO REACH DAMASCUS.
CRIME ALLEY:
THEN THAT'S WHY HE HIT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HERE IN GOTHAM, CATWOMAN--RATHER THAN THE ONES IN, SAY, LONDON OR WASHINGTON...
EXACTLY, BATMAN--BECAUSE HE LEARNED I WAS IN GOTHAM.
IN FACT, LONG BEFORE HIS ASSAULT ON THE EMBASSY, HE CAME FOR ME...
"UNFORTUNATELY FOR DIABLO, I WAS OUT.
"IF ONLY THE CHAIN-LEASH HAD NOT BEEN TOO SHORT TO REACH THE REFRIGERATOR...
"I INSPECTED THE PLATE LATER--CYANIDE.
"DARKWOLF MUST HAVE SACRIFICED HIS OWN SUICIDE CAPSULE--
"...BEFORE KICKING THE TAINTED MEAT WITHIN LEASH RANGE...
OUHRR
SKEEE
9

"I ASSUME HE MUST HAVE HOPED THE POISON WOULD EITHER KILL DIABLO OR DRIVE HIM MAD ENOUGH TO ATTACK ME WHEN I RETURNED -- PROBABLY BOTH.
"BUT EVEN HAD HE NOT UNDERESTIMATED DIABLO'S LOVE FOR ME --
"-- HE UNDERESTIMATED THE POISON'S EFFECT.
SNORT
"DIABLO WAS DRIVEN BERSERK ENOUGH TO SNAP HIS CHAIN -- AND PROWL THE NIGHT IN A CONFUSION OF TERROR AND PAIN."
KEESH
WHEREUPON HE MAULED THAT MUGGER AND HIS VICTIM.
MADDENED BY POISON OR NOT, CATWOMAN --
-- THAT'S SOMETHING THE CAT WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR...
I THINK NOT, BATMAN.
WH-WHAT --?
I'M AFRAID HE'S ALREADY BOUGHT IT.
FOR GOOD.
D-DIABLO?
EASY, CATWOMAN...
BUT THE DEATH DROPS HER, AS WELL...
OH, DIABLO...
AND EVEN THOSE TRAINED TO BE OBJECTIVE IN THE FACE OF HORROR CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL THE LOSS.


THEN:
--ALL CARS--GOTHAM AIRPORT--HIJACKED PLANE, STILL ON THE GROUND...
POLICE RADIO--FROM THE BATMOBILE.
WHAT'S THAT?
THEN...LET'S... GO.
AND THE TENSION COILED IN
MORE COLDLY METALLIC --
--THAN THE RADIO VOICE ITSELF
--TERRORIST DEMANDING ENOUGH FUEL TO REACH DAMASCUS, SYRIA..
AWRIGHT, CATWOMAN--WE'RE GONE.
THE CONTROL TOWER:
FILL US IN, GORDON
THE CATWOMAN! BUT, BATMAN, ISN'T SHE STILL WANTED FOR--
NOT NOW, GORDON--JUST FILL US IN.
WE CAN'T STALL ANY LONGER OR HE'LL START EXECUTING THE PASSENGERS.
WE'VE GOT TO FUEL THE PLANE AND CLEAR IT FOR TAKEOFF NOW.
HOW BADLY DO YOU WANT TO FLY THE UNFRIENDLY SKIES, CATWOMAN?
I'D DIE FOR THE CHANCE.
THEN, GORDON, I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT, BUT CONVINCE DARKWOLF HE NEEDS ANOTHER FLIGHT ATTENDANT
--YOU NEED AT LEAST ONE FLIGHT ATTENDANT TO PREVENT PANIC AMONG THE HOSTAGES
IF ANYTHING WERE TO GO WRONG IN-FLIGHT--
VERY WELL, TELL THEM THEY CAN SEND ONE--BUT ONLY ONE--AND IT MUST BE A WOMAN.

SELINA KYLE IS MANY THINGS -- AMONG THEM, BOTH CRIMINAL AND CRIMEFIGHTER...
ABOVE ALL ELSE, HOWEVER, AND IN ANY GUISE, SHE IS DEFINITELY A WOMAN.
HURRY UP -- AND NO TRICKS.
OUTSIDE: ONE OF THE GROUND CREW SHRUGS OFF HIS COVERALLS TO STEAL DEEPER UNDER THE BELLY OF THE PLANE.
INSIDE: EVEN THOUGH SHE FULLY EXPECTED THE FRISK, SHE CAN BARELY ENDURE HIS TOUCH, AND BARELY RESTRAIN HERSELF FROM RETURNING IT --
-- WITH A FORCE AMPLIFIED BY THOUGHTFRAME.
I TELL YOU I DON'T LIKE BEING LEFT BEHIND, GORDON.
BABY, LAD -- BATMAN AND CATWOMAN ARE HARDLY FORMING A NEW TEAM...
...AND IN THIS SITUATION, WE CAN BOTH HELP BATMAN BEST BY DOING [redacted].
NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE CALL.
THIS IS THE CONTROL TOWER -- WE'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO DARKWOLF.
NEGATIVE -- HE'S IN THE MAIN CABIN GREETING THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT.
GOOD -- AND LISTEN CAREFULLY NOW, BECAUSE THIS WILL BE SAID ONLY ONCE.
FLY LOW AND AT MINIMUM SPEED.
THE BATMAN IS ON YOUR WING.
12

THERE HE IS-- RETURNING TO THE PILOT'S CABIN.
WHY DO THEY TAKE SO LONG TO FUEL THE CRAFT?
IT... IT ALWAYS TAKES THIS LONG...
AND ARE YOU ALWAYS A LIAR?
THEY ARE UP TO SOMETHING -- AND I WILL SOON LEARN WHAT IT IS!
THIS IS THE PILOT -- HE JUST LEFT THE CABIN AGAIN -- HE'S GOING TO LOOK OUTSIDE! HE'LL SEE THE WING!
AND BATMAN'S A SITTING DUCK OUT THERE...
YOU WERE WRONG, GORDON.
I CAN BEST HELP BATMAN BY MOVING MY TAIL!
ROBIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? COME BACK HERE!
WHILE, INSIDE THE PLANE...
DARKWOLF'S HEADING FOR THE DOOR -- GOT TO DISTRACT HIM BEFORE HE DISCOVERS BATMAN!
AND THANK GOD SOMEONE ELSE HAS ALREADY HAD THE SAME IDEA..
LOOK! THERE'S SOMEONE OUT ON THE RUNWAY -- COMING THIS WAY!
IT'S THE BATMAN'S PARTNER -- ROBIN!


I KNEW THERE WAS SOME KIND OF TRICK! THIS "ROBIN" IS COMING AFTER ME FOR REVENGE--
--BECAUSE I KILLED BATMAN AT THE EMBASSY!
NO MORE STALLING! TAKE OFF AT ONCE--OR I START DROPPING GRENADES!
THE PLANE'S STARTING TO TAXI--BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH...
I'VE GOT TO SLOW DOWN--BUT MAINTAIN A CONVINCING RUN AT THE SAME TIME...
...MAKE IT LOOK LIKE I GAVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT AND JUST MISSED--LIKE AN OVERWEIGHT SALESMAN TRYING TO MAKE A CONNECTION FROM PODUNK TO PEORIA.
DID WHAT I COULD, PARTNER, AND HOLDING BACK WASN'T EASY...
NOW IT'S ALL UP TO YOU... YOU AND THE CATWOMAN...
JUST DO LIKE SHE DOES, YA HEAR?--AND MAKE SURE YOU LAND ON YOUR FEET.
14

EVEN AT MINIMUM TAKEOFF SPEED, THE AIR PRESSURE IS A FORCE... ALMOST RIPPING MY ARMS OUT AT THE SHOULDERS...
AND THIS FIRST MINUTE IS CRUCIAL -- BECAUSE UNTIL THE PLANE ATTAINS SUFFICIENT ALTITUDE, MY PARACHUTE IS USELESS..
NOTHIN' WE CAN DO NOW BUT HOPE WHAT THEY'RE DOIN' IS POSSIBLE, COMMISH.
IF ONLY HE WOULD'VE ACCEPTED THREE STEWARDESSES, JULIA...
YOUR STORY WILL BE SPECTACULAR ENOUGH, MS. VALE.
BABY, SIR...
B-BUT HE HAS GRENADES AND..
WH-WHAT?! THE B-BATMAN POINTING TO THE EMERGENCY HANDLE!
SHHH-- QUIET, SIR!
WHAT IS THE DISTURBANCE OUT HERE?
WHO WAS TALKING?!
PLEASE... WITHOUT SAYING ANOTHER WORD.. SIMPLY CHANGE YOUR SEAT.
BUT I... I...
NOW-- OR WE ALL DIE!
V-V-VERY WELL...
YOU!
HALT RIGHT THERE!
DO NOT MAKE ANOTHER MOVE!
15

BUT SELINA KYLE DOES MOVE--
VHOOOSH
--WITH THE ABRUPT SWIFTNESS OF A PANTHER.
AND THEN, CLAD AS A FLIGHT ATTENDANT OR NOT, SHE BECOMES THE CATWOMAN IN ALL FURY.
WH- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AVENGING THE DEVIL, YOU BEAST!!
AND UNDER THE MASK OF TERROR, HIS SCARS ARE DOUBLED.
CATWOMAN!
LOOK OUT!!
UHNNNN...
BATMAN! BUT... YOU'RE DEAD!!
KUNCH
16

IT IS THE BATMAN! BUT HOW'D HE GET ABOARD?
FRAK!
THE WIND RUSHING THROUGH THE CABIN--!
YES-- THE EMERGENCY DOOR IS OPEN-- HE MUST HAVE BEEN ON THE WING!
HARDLY DEAD, DARKWOLF--
WHUMP
--BUT AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED--
--I AM AN AVENGING GHOST!
SWOK
OHHHH...
DARKWOLF-- DESPERATE-- PULLING A GRENADE...!
AND CAN YOU RETURN TWICE FROM THE GRAVE, BATMAN--?
BECAUSE NOW WE ARE ALL GOING TO DIE!
17
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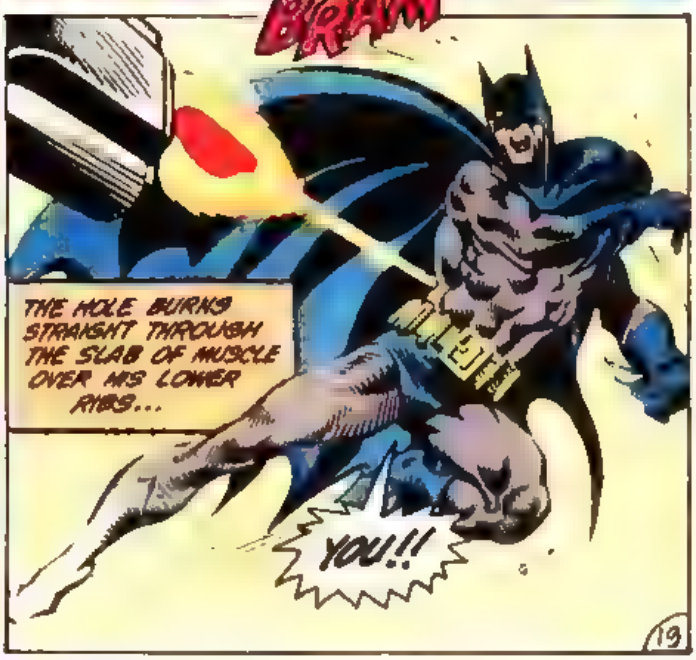
SELINA KYLE STARES AT THE WOLF-HEADED MAN WHO HAS KILLED AND KILLED AGAIN...
...BUT HER MIND'S EYE PICTURES ONLY ONE OF THE VICTIMS...
OH, DIABLO...
SHE SPINNERS--
--BRINGING THE MEMORY TO LIFE ONE LAST TIME--
--EVEN AS THE PIN IS PULLED.
THE LEAP CARRIES HER TO THE UP-RAISED GRENADE--
WH-WHAT?!
--AND BEYOND.
THE WIND-- PULLING ME!
CATWOMAN-- NO!!
BUT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE.
THE LAST LEAP HAS LEFT HER LEGS, AND IT WILL BE A LONG ONE.
18

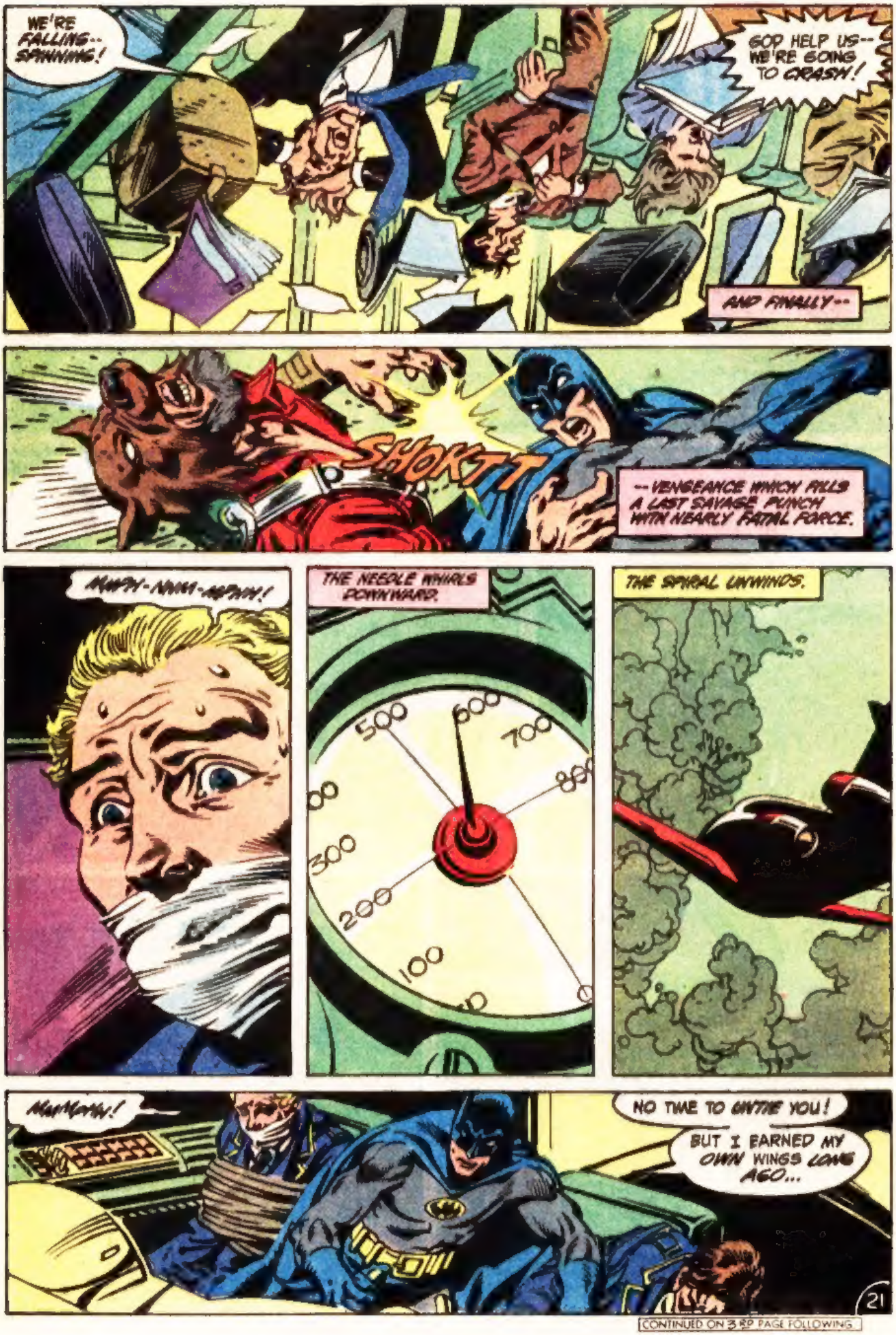
THE BATMAN REJECTS IT.
GOT TO THROW MY PARACHUTE AFTER HER--!
IF SHE CAN SLOW HER FALL LONG ENOUGH FOR IT TO CATCH UP...
THE THOUGHT HANGS UNFINISHED...

AND AFTER A FROZEN, SILENT COUNT OF TEN--
BAOUMM
-- THE PLANE BUCKS AND QUIVERS, AND THE THOUGHT DIES...

... AS NEW ONES WELL UP TO REPLACE IT! DID SHE HAVE TIME TO THROW THE GRENADE AWAY FROM HER? WILL SHE BE ABLE TO SLOW HER FALL? WILL SHE EVEN SEE THE PARACHUTE?
WILL HE EVER SEE HER AGAIN?
HOW MANY LIVES DOES A CAT REALLY --


BRAM
THE HOLE BURNS STRAIGHT THROUGH THE SLAB OF MUSCLE OVER HIS LOWER RIBS...
YOU!!

HE FEELS NOTHING.
HWOK
. NOTHING BUT VENGEANCE SEIZING HIM BY THE HEART.
VENGEANCE BORN OF THE SAME, TWICE REMOVED --
SWOK
--A VIRULENCE SPREADING FROM WOLF TO CAT TO BAT.
VENGEANCE WHICH DRAGS HIM DOWN TO THE DARK DEPTHS OF HYSTERICAL STRENGTH.
SWUD
VENGEANCE WHICH WHIPS HIM ON LIKE A MANIAC, KICKING AND PUNCHING DARKWOLF ALL THE WAY UP THE PLANE THROUGH THE FIRST-CLASS SECTION--
WROKT
BWAKT
--AND RIGHT INTO THE PILOT'S CABIN.
SWUMP
VENGEANCE WHICH PITCHES THE HUGE JETLINER ITSELF INTO A PLUMMETING SPIRAL.
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE PLANE--!
20



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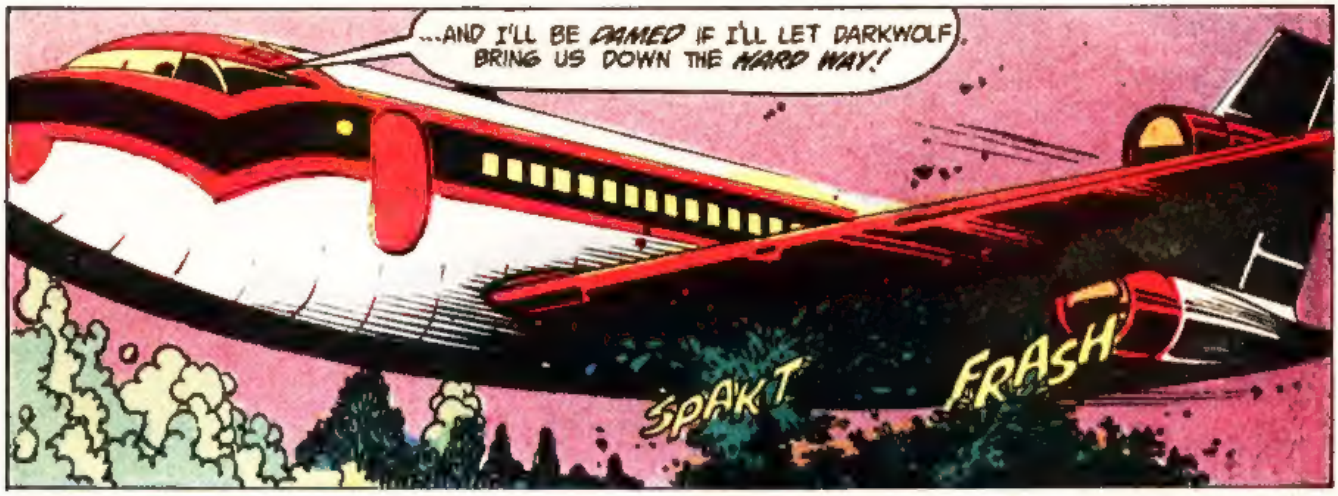
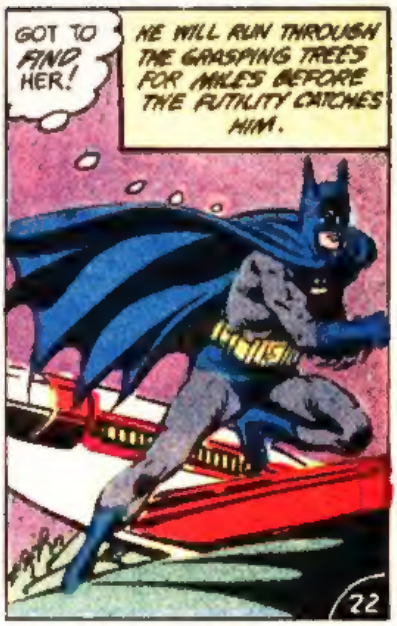

...AND I'LL BE DAMED IF I'LL LET DARKWOLF BRING US DOWN THE HARD WAY!
SPAK T
FRASH

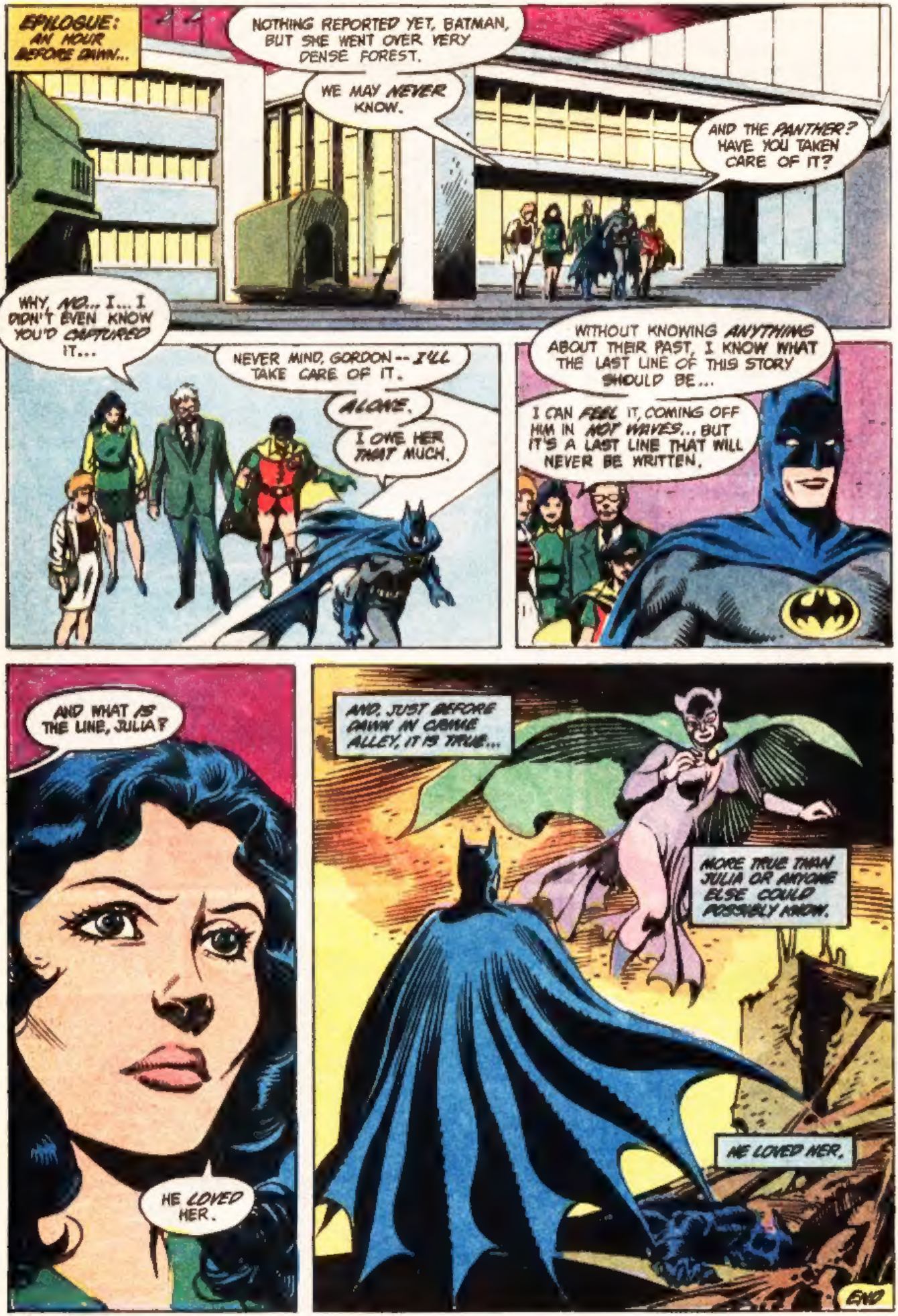
WITH BUT MOMENTS TO SPARE AND ONLY ONE OPENING IN THE TREES, HIS MANEUVERING IS SUPERB...
...AND IF THE LANDING IS HARD...

...IT IS NEVERTHELESS SOFT ENOUGH -- AND ON THE FEET.
THRESH - SHUMP

THE COPILOT SAGS, READY TO JOIN HIS PARTNER IN OBLIVION...
... BUT THE BATMAN REMAINS ROCK - HARD, STARING WITH UNFOCUSED EYES, REMEMBERING SELINA...

...SHE WHO SAVED THEIR LIVES...
... AND LEFT HER MARK NEXT TO DIABLO'S.


GOT TO FIND HER!
HE WILL RUN THROUGH THE GRASPING TREES FOR MILES BEFORE THE FUTILITY CATCHES HIM.


EPILOGUE: AN HOUR BEFORE DAWN...
NOTHING REPORTED YET, BATMAN, BUT SHE WENT OVER VERY DENSE FOREST.
WE MAY NEVER KNOW.
AND THE PANTHER? HAVE YOU TAKEN CARE OF IT?
WHY, NO... I... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU'D CAPTURED IT...
NEVER MIND, GORDON -- I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
ALONE.
I OWE HER THAT MUCH.
WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT THEIR PAST, I KNOW WHAT THE LAST LINE OF THIS STORY SHOULD BE...
I CAN FEEL IT, COMING OFF HIM IN HOT WAVES... BUT IT'S A LAST LINE THAT WILL NEVER BE WRITTEN.
AND WHAT IS THE LINE, JULIA?
HE LOVED HER.
AND, JUST BEFORE DAWN IN CRIME ALLEY, IT IS TRUE...
MORE TRUE THAN JULIA OR ANYONE ELSE COULD POSSIBLY KNOW.
HE LOVED HER.
END